June 28, 2007
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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Representative Charlie Melancon (D-LA) met with South Lafourche High School student Morgan Smith to congratulate her for winning the Third Congressional District Art Competition. Morgan's submission was a drawing entitled "Bringing the Music Back." Her work will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year along with other winning entries from across the country.

"Morgan's work shows the great talent and hope of our youth in south Louisiana. Her drawing is an inspiring depiction of people rebuilding and returning home after Hurricane Katrina," said Rep. Melancon. **"Morgan's artwork will be viewed by thousands of visitors to the Capitol and it will help them better understand the people of south Louisiana and our dream of restoring what was lost by Katrina and Rita. She should be very proud of her significant accomplishment and I thank her for sharing her talent with us."**

Morgan Smith is a recent graduate of South Lafourche High School. She will attend University of New Orleans in the fall. This is the second consecutive year that the winner of the Third Congressional District Art Competition is from South Lafourche.

Rep. Melancon hosted the annual Third Congressional District Art Competition on April 19, 2007, at his district office in Gonzales. The nationwide art competition, which is voluntarily sponsored by Members of Congress, provides young student artists with an opportunity to showcase their work locally, as well as the chance to be recognized at the national level for their talent and creativity.

The Congressional Arts Competition began in 1982 as an attempt to offset reductions in federal grants for arts programs by giving our creative students the chance to have their talents recognized nationwide. Since then, more than 650,000 students have participated in the competition and the works of thousands of young American artists have been showcased in a passageway to the Capitol.

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